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*New Jersey FFA Association
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625
Phone: 877-AgEdFFA Fax: 609-633-2421
In Cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education*

December 15, 2008

To: New Jersey FFA Chapter Advisors/Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource Educators

From: Erin E. Noble, State FFA Specialist

Re: **Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day**
Thursday, February 19, 2008 9:00 AM– 3:30 PM
Brower Student Center Room 202, The College of New Jersey
2000 Pennington Road, Ewing, NJ

Join us for a leadership event that brings New Jersey's FFA chapter leaders and legislators together in celebration of National FFA Week. Chapter members will have the opportunity to meet and talk with New Jersey's legislators during breakfast. Invited guests include Governor Corzine; Secretary of Agriculture; Lucille Davy, Commissioner of Education; and New Jersey Team Agricultural Education Leaders. Several New Jersey colleges and businesses have also been invited to this event to help students plan for success after high school. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day is a chance to embrace the FFA mission of premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

Check out the new format this year!

A mini college and career fair will be available from 9:00-10:00 am and during various times of the day. This portion of the program is optional and is to help with various arrival times of schools.

Brunch begins at 10:00 am and will include comments from legislators, the presentation of an FFA Week Proclamation, greetings from Department of Agriculture Division Directors, and a keynote speech by a Keely Weinberger, New Jersey State FFA Secretary.

Following brunch, students will participate in one of two options. (*Local districts are responsible for making supervision decisions regarding students participating in both options. Chapters might consider bringing two chaperones if participating in both options.)

Option 1: (Presidents Only (or another designated officer))

Students will visit and tour the State House, visit with members of the Farm Bureau, and attend a workshop on Key Messages in Agricultural Education, presented by Karis Byram, State FFA President.

Option 2: (Remaining members)

Students will rotate through three workshops to develop leadership and advocacy skills. These workshops are:

- ? Making Decisions through the Delegate Process – Brianne Scholl and Mark Boyko
- ? Make an Impact through Politics – Annaliese Gancarz and Gabrielle Ritzer
- ? Advocating for Agricultural Education – Keely Weinberger and Hanna Toft

This event meets New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards in Language Arts Literacy (3.3 and 3.4), Social Studies (6.2 and 6.4), and Career Education and Consumer, Family, and Life Skills (9.2). By the end of the day, students will be able to:

- * Share at least one key message about Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Education and FFA with a state legislator.
- * Create a public relations plan for the chapter
- * Define leadership and describe how to make statewide FFA decisions using the delegate process
- * Describe how one can make an impact utilizing the power to vote

REGISTRATION:

Registration for the event is \$25 and includes breakfast and workshops. Registration will begin at 9:00am in the Brower Student Center Lobby.

Please make your check payable to: **Treasurer, State of New Jersey** and send it to the **Office of Agricultural Education, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 330, Trenton, N.J. 08625-0330**. Registration is due **Monday, February 2, 2009**. Please use the online registration form at <http://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/events.htm> and submit your registration to ag.ed.registration@ag.state.nj.us. Official dress/business attire is required.

LUNCH:

Since a brunch will be served, there will be no break for lunch. Students will have small breaks in between workshops. Please make other arrangements for additional meals.

PARKING

Campus police will reserve parking for attendees. Please be sure to indicate on your registration form if you will need parking and what type vehicle you will have with you (ex. full sized school bus, car, mini-van). For cars, this parking is tentatively slated for Lot 6, the Student Parking Garage. School buses will need to park at The College of New Jersey Construction Parking. To access this gravel lot after dropping students off, depart TCNJ and go straight through the traffic light across Route 31. This will be Carlton Avenue. The parking lot is approximately 100 yards down the road on your right.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Driving directions to The College of New Jersey are available at <http://www.tcnj.edu/%7Eccr/about/directions.html>



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